

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 SY-02 PRS-01 USIE-00

EUR-08 SCA-01 SCS-01 USSS-00 /049 W

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O 081052Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5171

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 8583

LIMDIS-MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OINS, LE

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN

REF: BEIRUT 8494

1. EMBASSY CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH GOL OFFICIALS IN EFFORT OBTAIN RELEASE COL. MORGAN. AMBASSADOR IS PRESENTLY (0830Z) AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE HE SEING FONMIN TAQLA FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL CONTACTS BEING PURSUED JULY 8 USARMA, COL BREMMER, MEETING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURETE GENERAL, COL DAHDAH (0700Z) AND COL TAYER, DEP COMMANDER BEIRUT MILITARY DISTRICT (0800Z) DATT, COL. HUNT, WILL BE SEEING HISHAM SHA'AR, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (FSI) AND COL DAHROUGE, CHIEF OF STAFF OF FSI (0900Z) AND COL BOUSTANY, CHIEF OF DEUXIEME BUREAU (1000Z) WE WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT RESULTS OF THESE OR OTHER DISCUSSION ASAP.

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2. LOCAL PRESS JULY 8 CONTINUES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF MORGAN

CASE(SEPTEL) BUT THREE ITEMS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST:

(A) PRIMIN KARAME INFORMED PRESS JULY 7 THAT "WE (I. E. GOL) ARE CONTINUING OUR CONTACTS AND THE PALESTINE RESISTANCE IS HELPING US. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SECURE HIS RELEASE SHORTLY." ASKED IF DEMANDS OF REVOLUTIONARY SOCILIST ACTION ORGANIZATION (RSAO) FOR RELEASE OF COL MORGAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE DAY (JULY 7) KARAME RESPONDED "WE ARE DISCUSSING EVERYTHING."

(B) SUNNI MOSLEM LEADER SAEB SALAM AND CHRISTIAN NOTABLE HENRI PHARAON CALLED JULY 7 ON YASSIR 'ARAFAT AND MORGAN ABDUCTION WAS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED. ARAFAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE STATED DURING MEETING THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE "LENIENT" WITH KIDNAPPERS AND THAT HE IS GIVING ATTENTION TO MORGAN CASE.

(C) LEBANESE " NATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES" (I.E. LEFTISTS) ISSUED STATEMENT AT APPROX. MIDNIGHT JULY 7/8 IN TANGLE OF RITUALISTIC JARGON, THREE POINTS MERIT NOTICE:

(1) MORGAN POSSIBLY WAS NOT RPT NOT ABDUCTED;HE MAY HAVE VOLUNARILY JOINED HIS CAPTORS A PART OF PLOT TO JUSTIFY US INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

(2) PALESTINIANS HAVE "IDENTIFIED" ABDUCTORS WHO ARE OF "SUSPICIOUS" ORIGIN NOT RPT NOT RELATED TO LEBANESE LEFT OR PALESTINAIN ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) RSAO DOES NOT RPT NOT EXIST; IT IS COVER FOR PLOT.

3. COMMENT: SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT PERSONS (PRESUMABLE LEBANSES) WHO WERE KIDNAPPED DURING RECENT CLASHES AND IN IMMEDIATE AFTER MATH HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND HAVE ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE DETAINED IN COMPANY OF COL. MORGAN. WE HAVE NO RPT NO FURTHER DETAILS RE THESE STORIES AT THIS TIME, BUT FACT THAT COL. MORGAN WAS APPARENTLY DETAINED IN COMPANY OF OTHERS VICTIMS TENDS CONFIRM OUT BELIEF THAT HE WAS HELD, AT LEAST INITIALLY, BY WELL-ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATION PROBABLY PFLP.

4. PRESSURES UPON THOSE CURRENTLY HOLDING COL. MORGAN ARE
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MOUNTING AND, WITH DENUCIATION BY LEBANESE LEFT, HIS CAPTORS ARE UNDER ATTACK BY ALL SIDES. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT ATTENTION CASE IS RECEIVING PUBLICITY AND ALMOST UNIVERAL DISASSOCIATION OF ALL ELEMENTS FROM HIS DETENTION WILL FORCE HIS CAPTORS TO DIVEST THEMSELVES OF COL. MORGAN SOON. WE MUST HOWEVER CONSIDER THOSE WHO HOLD HIM TO BE EXTREMELY DESPERATE MEN-- THE MORE SO IF THEY BEIEVE THAT PFLP AND POSSIBLY OTHERS HAVE SET THEM UP AND MAY BE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THEM TO COVER THEIR

TRAIL. TO AVOID OVERDOING A GOOD TING. WE BELIEVE THEIR USG
COMMENT IN BEIRUT AND DEPT, SHOULD BE LOW-KEY TO AVOID PUSH
ING CAPTORS OVER EDGE.
GODLEY

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NNN

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